

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 11-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Previously, claims 2, 3, 5, and 7-10, were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Communication indicates that the reply as filed on July 22, 2005 was not fully responsive because the Examiner asserts that although species (c)—Figs. 4 and 8—was elected, claims 14, 15, and 17, appear to read on non-elected species (a) of Figs. 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion because, as set forth below, claims 14, 15, and 17, are properly elected with the species (c), Figs. 4 and 8.

The specification discusses Fig. 4 in connection with the third embodiment and discusses that both non-rotation and rotation type cleaning can be performed.

Initially, the specification states that "the cleaning liquid having high pressure can be forcibly made to flow through the bearing to be cleaned without applying a rotational drive force to the bearing to be cleaned 1."¹ The specification goes on to state that "after the bearing to be cleaned 1 is cleaned without rotating it, [it] is cleaned while rotating it, by replacing the conical-shaped die to the present embodiment with a conical-shaped rotary die including spiral grooves, a rotation-type cleaning operation can be carried out similarly with the second embodiment."²

The specification discusses that in the second embodiment (as shown in Fig. 3), parts used in common with the previously described Figs. 1 and 2 are given the same designations.³ One difference in the Fig. 3 embodiment is that the axial force is reduced, compared with that of the Figs. 1 and 2 embodiment, via the conical shaped rotary die 10.⁴ However, although the axial

¹ Specification at page 20, 2nd full paragraph.

² Specification at the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21.

³ Specification at page 18, lines 11-17.

⁴ Specification at page 18, lines 18-23.

force is reduced, it is not eliminated and, therefore, the axial preload as discussed at page 15, line 10 - page 16, line 13 is still applied in the Fig. 3 embodiment. Thus, because the Fig. 4 embodiment can be used to produce rotation in the same manner as the second embodiment (i.e., the embodiment of Fig. 3), the Fig. 4 embodiment also can apply an axial preload to perform rotation type cleaning as specifically discussed in connection therewith. In connection with the Fig. 8 embodiment, please see the paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27, as well as the 1st full paragraph on page 27.

In light of the above, claims 14, 15, and 17, properly are elected with the species (c), Figs. 4 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider claims 14, 15, and 17, along with the elected species (c).

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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